

# Access

## Preservation November

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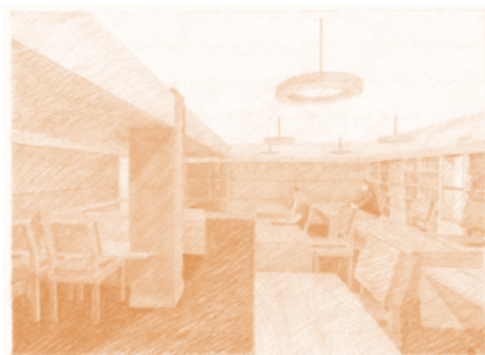
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### *Library of Michigan Celebrates Opening of Martha W. Griffiths Michigan Rare Book Room*

*10-Year 'Labor of Love' Honors Michigan's  
First Woman Lieutenant Governor*

*by Sarah Lapshan, Public Information Officer,  
Department of History, Arts and Libraries*



The Library of Michigan recently celebrated the completion and official opening of the new Martha W. Griffiths Michigan Rare Book Room. The Library of Michigan Foundation — which was instrumental to ensuring this room was designed and constructed entirely with private funding — hosted the inaugural celebration on October 28.

“This is a fitting tribute to Martha Griffiths who was, by all accounts, a state treasure. She was an avid supporter of Michigan libraries and Michigan education,” said Governor Jennifer M. Granholm. “The addition of this room will share her legacy of education with the entire state.”

State Librarian Christie Pearson Brandau added, “This project was a labor of love for our employees, our donors and library supporters throughout the state. The room’s grand opening truly marks a milestone for both the Library of Michigan and our foundation.

Having it unveiled to the public during the library’s 175<sup>th</sup>-anniversary year is just icing on the cake!”

The Library of Michigan’s Rare Book collection is comprised of more than 17,000 volumes, including printed books, maps, letters, prints and other formats covering subject matter such as natural history, law, angling, travel and exploration, Native Americans and Michigania. The Library of Michigan Foundation has provided the funding for the design and construction of the room, which is located on the fourth floor of the Library of Michigan. Also, through the creation of a special endowment fund, the foundation will support the conservation and preservation of rare materials, as well as the future acquisition of additional materials.

State Librarian Brandau said the new reading room and state-of-the-art storage complex are very important additions because they provide the necessary environmental conditions and security for the rare materials. This room also creates an inviting and suitable place for these important research materials to be used by the citizens of Michigan, said Brandau. “We have long had this exceptional collection,” she said. “Now, at last, we have the proper home for its storage and use by all who wish to see these treasures!”

To see photos and renderings of the Martha W. Griffiths Michigan Rare Book Room and pictures from the October 28 celebration, visit [www.michigan.gov/hal](http://www.michigan.gov/hal).

## State Residents Help Choose Michigan Reads! Title



by Casey Kremers, Department of  
History, Arts and Libraries

During the month of October, Michigan residents had the opportunity to pick their favorite from among the five titles carefully chosen by the Michigan Reads! book selection committee – *Barnyard Song* by Rhonda Gowler Greene, *Duck on a Bike* by David Shannon, *Kiss Good Night* by Amy Hest, *Mama Cat Has Three Kittens* by Denise Fleming and *One Dark Night* by Lisa Wheeler.

As this issue of *Access* went to press, voting was still taking place, but you can check the Michigan Reads! Web page at [www.michigan.gov/hal](http://www.michigan.gov/hal) to find out the winning title and other details about the program. We are updating the Web page frequently with new information and resources, so please check back often.

## CALNET Gives Gift to Michigan Libraries

by Jo Budler, Deputy State Librarian

When CALNET (the Capital Area Library Network, Inc.) voted last spring to dissolve, Secretary/Treasurer Marion VanLoo reports, its members were asked what they wanted to do with the resources to which each was entitled. A large number of the libraries decided to donate their portion to the Library of Michigan Foundation. According to VanLoo, these members were specific in their desire that the library community in Michigan benefit from the dissolution of CALNET, which has been instrumental in resource sharing in its area.

On behalf of all Michigan libraries, special thanks goes to these libraries for their contributions:

Ashley District Library  
Capital Area Career Center LMC  
Chi Memorial Library, Holt High School  
DeWitt High School Library

E.E. Knight Elementary Library  
East Jackson High School Library  
Foote Hospital Library  
Grass Lake Junior/Senior High LMC  
Greyhound Intermediate School  
Hanover-Horton Schools  
Holt Junior High School Library  
Lansing Catholic Central Library  
Leonard Elementary Media Center  
Mason High School LMC  
Northwest (Kidder) Middle School LMC  
OIM/Information Services  
Otto Middle School Library  
Pattengill Media Center  
Pennock Hospital Library  
Pewamo-Westphalia High School Library  
REMC-13, Ingham I.S.D.  
St. Thomas Aquinas School  
Stella Thompson Library, Eaton Rapids High School  
Thomas Cooley Law Library  
Warner Elementary School Library  
Western High School LMC

## Announcing Access to an Acclaimed Academic Resource – Brought to You by MeL!

by Brian Saad, GALE

The Michigan eLibrary (MeL), the anytime, anywhere information gateway to selected Internet resources, full-text magazines, newspapers and electronic books, is proud to provide academic researchers with a renowned source of peer-reviewed scholarly content – Ingenta.

Ingenta is one of the United Kingdom's top 20 Web services, providing published content from reliable academic research sources. Now, through a unique alliance with Gale®, Ingenta's more than 4,700 scholarly and academic electronic journals are integrated within Gale's InfoTrac Web® databases.

### Scholarly research with precise results

Ingenta is used by a wide range of information professionals, academics and students in both aca-

demia and the corporate world, with more than 60 percent of traffic from the United States and approximately 60 percent from academia. The “Ingenta advantage” includes:

#### **More content from scholarly e-journals**

The peer-reviewed, scholarly content from Ingenta dramatically expands Gale’s offerings, which in turn provides more research solutions for libraries.

#### **Faster and more effective searches**

The powerful combination of InfoTrac Web and Ingenta shortens research time and dramatically improves the effectiveness of the research. For example, a searcher who starts with a library catalog search can link directly into relevant information in InfoTrac (using 856 links from Gale’s MARC and ASCII record sets with InfoTrac InfoMarks®) and from there, run searches that access full text from InfoTrac and Ingenta.

#### **Core periodical databases plus e-journal subscriptions**

Libraries subscribing to both InfoTrac Web and Ingenta have access to the vast array of Ingenta content right from their InfoTrac Web session.

#### **A win-win for academics**

The Gale and Ingenta alliance has produced an integrated, combined service. Libraries can choose InfoTrac OneFile™ Plus or Expanded Academic ASAP™ Plus. As part of the regular library subscription, users will receive:

- a single interface to search combined content;
- integrated results sets of InfoTrac and Ingenta content;
- the ability to access scholarly articles from up to 4,700 Ingenta academic and professional titles, based on the library’s subscriptions; and
- the ability to buy individual articles in digital format from Ingenta publishers where the library does not hold a subscription.

#### **Much more than just a link**

The Gale and Ingenta combined service allows libraries to integrate their core periodical content and e-journal subscriptions into one interface:

InfoTrac. In addition, it provides a solution for academic libraries that need access to a wide range of scholarly materials in a simple, familiar and easy-to-use search system. Users can access the content from campus or remote locations, enabling distance learners to use OneFile Plus or Expanded Academic ASAP Plus as a virtual library of periodical content.

The Gale Ingenta Combined Service is available for the following InfoTrac Web products: InfoTrac OneFile and Expanded Academic ASAP.

Activate the Gale Ingenta Combined Service by configuring this preference for your Gale product using the InfoTrac ITConfig maintenance program. To access InfoTrac ITConfig, you need to have the appropriate URL for your account along with the username and password. This URL is different from your database access URL and can be obtained by contacting Gale technical support.

Log into InfoTrac ITConfig and select “locations” from the menu on the left-hand side. Select “modify location” next to the loc-ID/name of your institution. Scroll towards the bottom of the page until you see the Ingenta section.

You will see two radio buttons.

- “Activate Gale/Ingenta Combined Services with e-commerce option”
- To enable the Gale Ingenta Combined Services and provide users with the ability to purchase digital copies of articles, select this radio button. This is also known as “pay-per-view” option.
- “Activate Gale/Ingenta Combined Services without e-commerce option”
- To enable the Gale Ingenta Combined Services without the ability to purchase digital copies of articles, select this radio button.

Click on the “save” button at the bottom of the screen.

Once you activate the Gale Ingenta Combined Service, ITConfig will open the Ingenta account information screen. You will be prompted to enter your existing Ingenta account information or register a new account with Ingenta.

If you have an existing Ingenta account, enter your account information (username and password) and select "continue." You will get a message indicating your Ingenta account has been verified. You will be prompted to confirm your account information by clicking "yes" or "no." (Clicking "no" will re-display the Ingenta information screen where you will have to re-enter your username and password.)

Once this information is entered, you will be returned to the summary screen, where you will be able to see the details of your account. For your location, you will see the type of service selected along with your Ingenta account information. You will also see a link to "manage my Ingenta," which will give you access to the "manage profile" pages on the Ingenta Web site. This will allow you to update your Ingenta account profile.

Please enable the Gale Ingenta Combined Service for each loc-ID/name (location) in your institution's account, and specify whether the e-commerce option will be used or not.

When you have finished modifying your locations, exit from the ITConfig program.

#### Further Gale Resources:

How to find your location ID  
[http://access.gale.com/authentication/cookie\\_cutter.html#FindMyLocID](http://access.gale.com/authentication/cookie_cutter.html#FindMyLocID)

InfoTrac Config [ITConfig] user manual  
[http://www.gale.com/pdf/customer\\_service/manuals/itconfigguide.pdf](http://www.gale.com/pdf/customer_service/manuals/itconfigguide.pdf)

Ingenta technical bulletin  
[http://www.gale.com/pdf/customer\\_service/bulletins/ingenta.pdf](http://www.gale.com/pdf/customer_service/bulletins/ingenta.pdf)

Contact Gale technical support  
[http://www.gale.com/customer\\_service/contact/index.htm](http://www.gale.com/customer_service/contact/index.htm)

## Upcoming Continuing Education Opportunities from the Library of Michigan

### GATES TRANSITION WORKSHOPS

Your public access computers from the Gates Foundation were wonderful, but now they are aging. Where do you go from here? Join us as Gates Foundation staff members provide an overview of the Gates computers operating system and support issues, as well as upgrading, re-purposing and stretching the lifespan of your Gates granted computers.

Presenters: Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation staff

Time: 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Cost: Free

CEUs: 0.4

11/10 Library of Michigan, Lansing

11/12 University Center, Gaylord

### WORKSHOP FOR NEW DIRECTORS AND THEIR TRUSTEES

This workshop provides information on the services the Library of Michigan offers to libraries across Michigan. We strongly encourage all new directors and trustees to attend this informative workshop.

Presenters: Library of Michigan staff

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Cost: \$20

CEUs: 0.5

11/13 Library of Michigan, Lansing

For more information on all workshops offered by the Library of Michigan, please visit our Web site at <http://www.michigan.gov/hal>. On the left side of the screen, click on *Exhibits & Events*, then click on *Conferences & Workshops*, then *Library*.

For more information about the above workshops, you may also call Jenn Houseman at (517) 373-1580.

**Don't forget our free Learning More @ the Library of Michigan patron training sessions and our Abrams Genealogy Series as well! For more information on these classes, visit our Web site or call the library at (517) 373-1300.**



## Best-Selling Author Richard Florida to Speak at Dec. 11 “Creating Cool” Conference

by Tamara Real, Get Real! Communications

Dr. Richard Florida, author of *The Rise of the Creative Class and How It's Transforming Work, Leisure, Community and Everyday Life*, will be the featured speaker at a one-day conference to take place at the Lansing Center in Lansing on Thursday, December 11. Entitled *Creating Cool: Linking Culture, Community and the Economy*, the conference is designed to bring together cultural, economic development, civic and government leaders seeking creative solutions to community challenges. The conference is jointly presented by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and Michigan Department of Consumer and Industry Services with assistance from numerous other organizations, including the Library of Michigan.

“We are delighted to be a part of the process of organizing this important event,” noted State Librarian Christie Pearson Brandau. “Libraries play such a vital role in the well-being of their communities that this is an event that they certainly will not want to miss, as our state works to attract and retain a creative class of workers. Libraries need to be at the table as community leaders envision their future development.”

The event will feature presentations showcasing examples of how arts and culture can be creatively used to stimulate and enhance economic development on the local level. The first such gathering of its kind, this event is part of the “cool cities” initiative of Governor Granholm, who will open the conference with introductory remarks. Other speakers will include Dr. William Anderson, director of the Department of History, Arts and Libraries, and David Hollister, director of the Department of Consumer and Industry Services.

Teams of individuals from local communities are encouraged to attend. For registration materials, visit [www.michigan.gov/hal](http://www.michigan.gov/hal) or call Get Real! Communications at (734) 669-4360.

## MeL Tools for the Young Researcher

by Janice Murphy, Librarian, Library of Michigan

Michigan eLibrary offers a range of databases to Michigan students this fall. Three are part of InfoTrac: InfoTrac Student Edition (IS), InfoTrac Junior Edition (IJ) and Kids InfoBits 1.0(KI).

The Student Edition is designed for high school students. You may have used it in the past under its prior name, SuperTOM. It includes access to a variety of indexed and full-text magazines, newspapers and reference books for information on current events, the arts, science, popular culture, health, people, government, history, sports and more. Of the three databases, it has the most inclusive list of magazines with 409 titles. Its reference set includes 16 titles, compared to five titles in InfoTrac Junior (these five titles appear in both: *Columbia Encyclopedia*, *Merriam Webster's Biographical Dictionary*, *Rand McNally Maps*, the *Reader's Companion to American History* and the *World Almanac and Book of Facts*) and eight titles in Kids InfoBits 1.0. There are no common titles between KI and either IS or IJ. The other 11 reference titles in IS are *All Our Yesterdays*, *American Reader*, *Asimov's Chronology of Science and Discovery*, *Benet's Reader's Encyclopedia*, *Benet's Reader's Encyclopedia of American Literature*, *Constitution of the United States*, *Encyclopedia of American Facts and Dates*, *Great Thinkers of the Western World*, *Harper Encyclopedia of Military Biography*, *Merriam Webster's Dictionary of Quotations* and *Merriam Webster's Geographical Dictionary*.

The Junior Edition reincarnates SuperTOM Junior. It is designed for students in junior high and middle school, with magazines, newspapers and reference books (most are full-text) for information on current events, the arts, science, popular culture, health, people, government, history, sports and more. The 152 periodicals included in this database cover the years 2000-2003.

Kids InfoBits targets the research needs of students in kindergarten through fifth grade. It features a visually graphic interface to appeal to this age group. A subject-based topic tree search is used to access full-text of age-appropriate, curriculum-related magazine, newspaper and reference content related to current events, the arts, science, health, government, history, sports, etc. Coverage of some magazine titles begins as early as 1986, but most do not begin until the mid-1990s or later. Its eight-

title reference suite consists of the *Blackbirch Encyclopedia of Science and Invention*; the *Blackbirch Kid's Almanac of Geography*; the *Blackbirch Kid's Visual Reference of the World*; *Kidsbits*; three *Junior Worldmark* titles - *Encyclopedia of the Nations*, *Encyclopedia of the Canadian Provinces* and *Encyclopedia of the States*; and *Merriam Webster's Elementary Dictionary*.

In addition to research materials, KI includes a teacher's toolbox, which is not linked to in the other databases. The toolbox has links on how to judge information, the mechanics of writing a paper, citing sources and organizing a report. This information would also be of value to many junior and senior high students. The name of the section may be misleading – it contains information you would ordinarily get from a teacher, rather than being for the teacher. The text is in large font and easy to read. The dictionary link in this section indicates that you can search by just typing the first few letters of a term. This feature does not seem to work, however. Typing 'gir' or 'dino' nets zero results, but 'giraffe' and 'dinosaur' both garner brief definitions. Information found under 'help' is written in language for the higher end of the target audience. Many children would need the help of an adult to understand these explanations and instructions.

As mentioned above, IS has a journal list of 409 titles versus 152 in IJ and 118 in KI. However, a few titles are unique to each database. For example, *Children's Playmate* and *Enviroman* are in KI but not IS or IJ. *Consumer Reports*, *CosmoGirl!*, *Field & Stream* (West ed.) and *Good Housekeeping* are a few of the titles listed in IJ but not IS. Because of the slight differences in content, there may be occasions when it would be appropriate to use more than one of the databases to investigate a topic.

Michigan students should be well armed to meet most of their research challenges this year through these MeL databases.



## Preservation Reminders for Library Staff

by Carol Fink, Assistant Rare Book Librarian,  
Library of Michigan

Performing simple preservation activities on a regular basis is easier than you might think. The following list of easy but powerful actions will help preserve and conserve your library's collections.

### Paper-based materials:

- Encourage stack maintenance personnel to glance at the top and bottom edges of printed materials for paper clips, foreign papers, folded edges, etc., before reshelfing.
- Routinely snug-up bookshelves to minimize air flow. In case of fire, oxygen in the gaps allows the fire to spread more quickly.
- Remove books by pushing back the book on both sides of the one you seek and grasping it around the spine. Comment on how to remove books from the shelf each time you lead a patron to the stacks.

### Audiovisual materials:

- Rewind audio and video tapes completely before reshelfing. In case of disaster, the tape's leader may be the only portion damaged – this part can be removed, thereby allowing the tape to still be useful.
- Whenever possible, store audio and video tapes in plastic cases in a separate section of the stacks. Plastic is more water-resistant but burns at a hotter temperature. More fluid is needed to extinguish burning plastic than paper, so mixed materials can result in far more damage than if kept separately.

### Shelving tips:

- Avoid shelving library materials on the top shelf when a fire suppression system is present, as they absorb much of the fluid intended to put out the fire below. Also, try to keep the bottom row of paper materials at least four inches from the floor. Accidental floods (water pipe leaks or breakage) seldom cause deeper water levels.

### Preservation awareness/preparedness:

- Create a written disaster plan and test the plan to ensure it works smoothly. There are many online and print resources to help draft working plans. Go to [www.michigan.gov/hal](http://www.michigan.gov/hal), then click on *Services and Collections*, then *Rare Books* to find many resources for preservation/conservation information.
- Post decorative (colored and/or illustrated) signs that list preservation activities all employees should follow. Recommendations such as the following make a great deal of difference to your collection's longevity:
  - Avoid rubber bands, paper clips, post-it notes and thick inserts.
  - Limit food and drink around library materials.
  - Handle books with care – carry no more than can easily be supported with one arm (frees up the other hand for opening doors, etc.). Take care to not overload book trucks (overfiling stresses welded joints).
  - Place all food wastes in a lidded, communal bin. Ensure this bin is emptied daily and the trash removed from the building before the end of the day.
- Evaluate all cleaning products for compatibility with library materials. See [www.nedcc.org/plam3/tleaf43.htm](http://www.nedcc.org/plam3/tleaf43.htm) for useful information and much more about preserving library materials.

The Library of Michigan has a unique kit of preservation awareness materials available through interlibrary loan. The Fading Memories kit has many of the tools that bring preservation awareness to the attention of patrons and employees alike. Contact the Library of Michigan Interlibrary Loan Department at (517) 373-8926 to borrow one of these kits.

# Web-Sitings

*by Kyle Ripley, Reference Assistant, Library of Michigan*

## Digitization, Print and Photo Preservation

Colorado Digitization Program

<http://www.cdphheritage.org>

Digital and Multimedia Center, including Vincent Voice Library (MSU)

<http://digital.lib.msu.edu>

Making of Modern Michigan

<http://mmm.lib.msu.edu>

American Memory: Historical Collections for the National Digital Library

<http://memory.loc.gov>

ProQuest's Digital Vault Initiative

<http://www.proquest.com/umi/umi-vault.shtml>

Yale University Library Digital Collections

<http://www.library.yale.edu/libraries/digcoll.html>

Canadian Initiative on Digital Libraries

<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/cidl/inforese.html>

Indiana University Digital Library Program

<http://www.dlib.indiana.edu>

United States Digital Map Library

(USGenWeb Project)

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/maps>

## A Home to Call Our Own: Michigan State Library, 1961 to 1980

*by Carol Fink, Assistant Rare Book Librarian, Library of Michigan*

Following Loleta Fyan's surprising ouster in March of 1961, Governor John B. Swainson appointed Genevieve M. Casey (1962-1967) to the top librarian position in the state. It had been 10 years since a fire destroyed the State Library's quarters in the Cass Building, and still the library's collections resided in multiple buildings. Two of Governor Swainson's budget recommendations that year were for the construction of two buildings –



one that would house the Law Library Division in a new Supreme Court building and the other, a new facility for the State Library. However, yearly requests for a new building that could house all the library's holdings would not be seriously addressed by the Michigan Legislature for years to come.

In 1963, a state reorganization moved administration of the State Library from the State Board for Libraries (which retained an advisory role) to the Department of Education. Also in 1963, the Dudley Building, formerly the John Deer Farm Implement Company, was remodeled as the new headquarters for the State Library. In just four month's time, library staff moved over one million volumes into 60,628 feet of floor space.

The first floor of this new location was readied to receive materials of the Library for the Blind that previously had been housed in Saginaw. Staff members were able to employ the previous tenant's 225 feet of conveyor belt to facilitate transporting materials to the loading dock for mailing. Public Act 552 of 1960 had enabled the physically handicapped to utilize library materials designed for the blind. This generous piece of legislation increased circulation from 635 items in 1960 to 280,347 in 1966/67. The demand for these materials nearly tripled the number of staff from three to 11, and with the assistance of 70 volunteers, over 51,000 recordings were made for distribution.

In conjunction with Western Michigan Library School, the State Library sponsored a professional trainee program allowing any library school student enrolled in a minimum of eight hours per semester at an accredited school to work at the State Library – with the caveat that they would continue to work at the library for two years after graduation.

A study conducted by Nelson Associates, a New York management consultant firm, investigated reference and research resources in Michigan's academic libraries. Their findings showed that though the state of Michigan had a world-famous collection of resources, it still did not meet the information needs of its residents. As library allocations amounted to only five cents per capita, the study recommended Michigan libraries investigate more ways to provide services cooperatively. In 1965, the State Library began offering centralized cataloging to 125 public and school libraries and distributed over 10 million cards. A new service in 1967 offered a daily "hot-line" phone call to fourteen community college

libraries. By being the conduit through which college students could obtain specialized materials, the State Library helped college libraries better manage their budgets by supplying materials readily available in another library.

The battle between public library systems over \$2.5 million in penal fines was resolved when the Michigan constitution was rewritten in 1963. An additional \$1.5 million allocation each year enabled small and large public libraries to offer enhanced services. Though still not complying with the American Library Association's recommended fair share, grants to Michigan libraries increased to between 30 and 60 cents per capita.

Genevieve Casey resigned in late 1967 to join the faculty at Wayne State University in the Department of Library Science and in the Center for Urban Studies. An article in *Library Journal*<sup>1</sup> noted that apparent conflicts with the Department of Education caused Casey and five other employees to resign in a six-month period. The turmoil caused by these rapid departures was tempered by the appointment of Francis (Frank) X. Scannell as State Librarian. Scannell had left the State Library in 1965 to work as head of reference services for Michigan State University and was well known and liked by State Library employees.

House Bill 4920 was passed in 1968, providing for coordination of local library operations and strengthening the resources of the State Library to minimize competition with regional libraries. Critics of this bill suggested the State Library just close its doors to walk-in patrons. To address that proposal, House Bill 4920 included wording that prevented the State Library from purchasing general materials and kept the doors open to any visitor.

The 1970s saw more cooperative efforts between public and school libraries. In 1972, the State Library instituted a book exchange program that donated over 20,000 books per year to libraries across the state. Just one year later, representatives from the State Library met with Michigan academic and public library system directors to form the Michigan Library Consortium (MLC).

The search for an adequately designed facility still proved elusive through most of the decade. President Nixon's fund impoundment policies caused Frank Scannell to remark, "from the warehouse, to the warehouse, to the poorhouse."<sup>2</sup>

The State Library found a staunch friend in Senator William Faust. Senator Faust strongly supported the State Library's basic need for a properly designed, permanent facility in which to reside.



His comments, “It’s a good operation. But the facilities they have to work with are a disgrace to the state”<sup>3</sup> were addressed in the early 1980s. Faust, as Senate majority leader, recommended in the legislative priorities for 1980 that the State Library transfer from the Department of Education to the Michigan Legislature. If the transfer were approved, the Legislature would strive to reverse the downward spiral in library services and address the deteriorating conditions in the law library and main library buildings.

## History of the Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

*by Andrew Wilson, SBPH Services and Data Analyst*

Library service to the blind began on March 3, 1931, as President Herbert Hoover signed into law the Pratt-Smoot Act, which called for \$100,000 to be administered by the Library of Congress to provide blind adults with books.

Nineteen libraries were chosen across the United States to circulate 157 books, which were embossed (Braille or Moon type) under the Books for the Adult Blind Project. Two of those libraries were in Michigan – the Wayne County Library to serve Detroit and Wayne County and the Michigan State Library for the Blind in Saginaw to serve the rest of the state.

In 1933, the Pratt-Smoot Act was amended to include talking books, books that were recorded on vinyl record. Record players needed to be purchased by the nearly 80 percent of the blind population who could not read Braille or Moon type, but during the Great Depression few blind individuals could afford the record player. In 1935, President Franklin Roosevelt signed an executive order allowing the Library of Congress to build and distribute record players free of charge to those who needed them.

The service continued through the war years, with unique challenges posed to those librarians serving the blind. The first Conference on Library Services for the Blind was held in November 1951, which helped solve many of these challenges. The 1951 conference also recommended expanding the service to

children. On July 3, 1952, the Pratt-Smoot Act was amended, with the word adult removed. By 1954, 20 percent of the talking books and Braille books being produced were for children.

The 1960s were a decade of change for the Books for the Blind program. In 1960, open-reel magnetic tapes were added to the Braille books and talking books on record that the Library of Congress provided. In 1963, the Michigan State Library for the Blind was moved from Saginaw to Lansing, where it occupied the first floor of the Dudley Building on Michigan Avenue. In 1966, President Lyndon Johnson signed Public Law 89-522, which expanded the program to serve individuals who were physically unable to read or handle standard printed materials. By 1968, flexible discs were introduced to replace the bulky and heavy rigid vinyl records, and 1968 also saw the change from open-reel cassettes to standard cassette tapes.

In the 1970s the Michigan State Library for the Blind program expanded with the development of subregional libraries, local libraries designated to provide library service to the blind and handicapped in a specified part of the regional library’s service area. Two subregional libraries opened in 1972 – the Grand Traverse Area Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, which served eight counties in northern Michigan, and the Washtenaw County Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, serving Livingston and Washtenaw counties. Eight more subregionals opened across the state between 1973 and 1979.

In 1977, the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped instituted a change in the cassette format. The books on cassette began to be recorded at a slower speed (15/16) and use four-track recording, enabling six hours of a book to be recorded on one 90-minute cassette tape.

The Easy Cassette player was introduced in the 1980s. Designed for people who had difficulty operating the standard four-track cassette player, the Easy Cassette player featured automatic playback once the cassette was inserted.

Three more subregional libraries opened in the 1980s, one to serve downtown Detroit, one to serve Macomb County and one to serve five counties in southwest Michigan.

Two advances for patrons were made in the 1980s. The first In-WATS line was established in 1983 to allow patrons to contact the Library of Michigan Service for the Blind and Physically

Handicapped (SBPH) 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In 1989, the Library of Michigan SBPH received its first piece of adaptive technology when Consumers Power Company donated a Kurzweil Reading Machine. This allowed patrons to scan documents, which were then read back by a computerized voice.

In 1990 the Library of Michigan SBPH created the Audio Materials Production Center, which serves as a focal point for the volunteer narration program. This program records materials not available through the National Library Service and concentrates on Michigan-related books and topics.

Two subregional libraries closed in 1990, the Southwest Michigan Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped in Portage and the Willard Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped in Battle Creek. The patrons in the ten counties served by these libraries had their talking book and Braille service transferred to the regional library in Lansing.

Library of Michigan Foundation funds were used to purchase a collection of descriptive video-cassettes in 1996. The described video collection features popular major motion pictures, with a narrator who describes the visual elements of a movie so that individuals with little to no vision can enjoy the latest Hollywood blockbusters.

Currently the Library of Michigan Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped is awaiting the release of digital talking books from the National Library Service, which will allow the user to jump to a specific section of a book without having to fast forward and rewind. Planned for release in 2008, digital talking books will be smaller yet will have more information than can fit on a four-track cassette.

## Michigan Center for the Book Takes Part in National Book Festival

*by Casey Kremers, Department of History, Arts and Libraries*

The Michigan Center for the Book and its affiliates participated in the October 4 National Book Festival on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Hosted by First Lady Laura Bush, the third annual National Book Festival was organized and sponsored by the Library of Congress.

As part of the festival's Pavilion of the States, an exhibit of staffed information tables on reading and literacy programs and events from around the country, the Michigan Center for the Book promoted the rich literary and cultural heritage of Michigan by providing materials about Michigan authors, Michigan books for children and young adults, the Read Michigan program and Michigan history. Thanks to Travel Michigan and the Department of Transportation, the center's display also promoted Michigan tourism by featuring the Michigan Travel Ideas magazine and Michigan state maps.

The National Book Festival—a celebration of books, reading and creativity—featured over 80 award-winning authors, illustrators, poets and storytellers for the public to meet. Programs will be cybercast at the Library of Congress Web site at [www.loc.gov/bookfest](http://www.loc.gov/bookfest).

The Michigan Center for the Book's affiliates include Baldwin Public Library, Brighton District Library, Canton Public Library, Clinton-Macomb Public Library, Genesee District Library System, Grand Rapids Public Library, Hackley Public Library, Hamburg Township Library, Herrick District Library, Kalamazoo College Upjohn Library, Madonna University Library, Macomb Community College Library, Mott Community College Library, Novi Public Library, Oak Park Public Library, Peter White Public Library, Plymouth District Library, Saginaw Valley State University Library, Southfield Public Library and West Bloomfield Township Public Library.

## *Fremont Area District Library Hot Titles Newsletter*

For the past year, the Fremont Area District Library has provided its patrons with a monthly e-mail newsletter called *Hot Titles*. The newsletter contains a list of bestsellers, book club picks and future releases. Currently the e-mail list has over 60 subscribers, an astounding number for a library serving a population of 13,000. Patrons can sign up for the list using a form on the library's Web page (<http://fremontlibrary.net/Reference/hottitles.html>) or by filling out a paper subscription form in the library.

The intention of the newsletter is to notify patrons of new and popular books that the library has, as well as to let them know when a book by a prominent author is released. Patrons can then place themselves on the waiting list for the books that they want instead of waiting for the books to spend some time on the library shelves.

## *Best-Selling Author Tom Grace Visits Eau Claire District Library*



The Southwest Michigan Library Cooperative awarded a grant to the Eau Claire District Library to bring best-selling author Tom Grace to visit recently. This was the first adult program held in the library's newly completed community room. Grace spoke about how he came to write his first novel, how he

published it himself after failing to find a publisher and how he landed a three-book deal from a major publisher. He also discussed his visit to Greenland to do research for his third book and how he learned to ice sail from a world champion iceboat pilot. The audience was enthusiastic and thoroughly enjoyed the oft-humorous program by this University of Michigan graduate. One audience member stated that she enjoyed the presentation so much she could have listened to Grace for another two hours.

The event was funded in part by a grant from the Michigan Council of Arts and Cultural Affairs and the National Endowment for the Arts as part of the Art Adventure program. The Michigan Center for the Book and the Alpena County Library are sponsoring Art Adventure in an effort to foster a greater appreciation of literature, art and illustration in Michigan's smaller communities.



If you have a news item you would like to contribute, please contact Casey Kremers at 517-373-5578 or email: [ckremers@michigan.gov](mailto:ckremers@michigan.gov).



*2003 Access Team: Back row - Kyle Ripley, Tim Watters, Casey Kremers, Jo Budler, Linda Neely, Andrew Wilson, front row - Becky Cawley and Karrie Waarala. Not pictured, Marnie Elden and Jennifer Houseman.*

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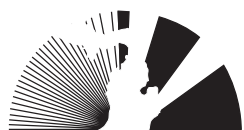
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